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EDC 102

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The grade level that my partner and I chose is elementary. Before reading this book, I probably would have used the word normal to describe my elementary school experience. However, from reading Savage Inequalities, hearing from others, and reflecting on my own time in elementary school, normal can really mean anything. What is considered “the norm” can change at any time and differs between people. For me, elementary school was attending a small school in northwestern Connecticut, surrounded by the same 30-40 kids that I would later graduate high school with. We had about 2 or 3 teachers for each grade level, students were predominantly white, and the entire school could comfortably fit inside the small gym. My elementary school experience could be entirely different to someone else’s. Compared to the children in Savage Inequalities, my elementary school was nearly opposite of theirs. Although not all the kids I went to elementary school with ended up attending college, almost everyone had the opportunity and the means to do so, also none of them ended up in prison. As far as I know, if you were not at an adequate reading level for your grade, you were held back, not just handed a diploma like the children in the book. What I consider to be a normal elementary school, is very different than what the students in the book think. It’s upsetting that they do not even know that there are other options but do not have the means to explore them. I am extremely thankful that I went to a school that was well maintained. The teachers were wonderful, food was good, and there were never sewage problems or other large issues. Although I’m thankful for my elementary school experience, I know that there is more than one way to have a good one. Whether you go to a school, are homeschooled, or any other form of elementary education, your time there can lead you to an even greater level of education.